



THE IMG CENTER
1360 EAST 9TH STREET, SUITE 650
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44114
TELEPHONE 216.928.7700
WWW.FANLEGAL.COM

August 12, 2020

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND HAND-DELIVERY TO:

Detective Raul Atanacio
Cleveland Police Department – Sex Crimes
1300 Ontario St.
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Prosecutor Jennifer Driscoll
Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office
1200 Ontario Street, 9th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Dear Detective Atanacio and Prosecutor Driscoll,

I trust that this correspondence finds you both safe and well. Let me begin by thanking you for your professionalism in affording our team, as Drake Bell's counsel, the opportunity to provide you with additional evidence to consider during your investigation. This makes clear that you are not rushing to judgement and are concerned only with the search for truth. Again, for that, thank you. While COVID-19 has certainly hampered everyone's ability to fully investigate matters, from either side of the aisle, I respectfully now submit what I believe to be critical evidence regarding the claims made by [REDACTED] against Mr. Bell.

Specifically, included for your consideration are the following:

1. Ms. Cathy Kautz, Audio Statement & Statement Transcription
2. Ms. Darlene Richards, Audio Statement & Statement Transcription
3. Ms. Janet Bell, Audio Statement & Transcription

While we continue to follow relevant leads, respectfully, the above-referenced evidence does call into question the validity of the claims made to date. In sum, two fact witnesses (Ms. Kautz and Ms. Richards) are firsthand witnesses who offer contradictory statements from Ms. [REDACTED] For instance, neither witnessed anything out of the

ordinary and Ms. Richards unequivocally refutes that [CHILD AB/NEG] was ever in Mr. Bell's hotel room alone. Ms. Bell provides insight into the plausible ulterior motive for [CHILD AB/NEG INFO] making the instant claim. The attached video in combination with additional learned facts, evidences a young woman who, upon learning that Mr. Bell was in a relationship, felt hurt and betrayed which naturally could very well lead to vindictive behavior. Of course, I am unable to state to any degree of certainty what [CHILD AB/NEG INFO] is thinking but under any circumstance and by her own words (Referring to Text Messages Between Ms. Bell and Ms. Grossman), she had delusions of marrying Mr. Bell. Such expectation was a product of [CHILD AB/NEG INFO] imagination and obsession for Mr. Bell. At no time did Mr. Bell ever represent or suggest by innuendo that such a scenario was remotely possible. While this type of thought process is not something an ordinary, non-celebrity type person would be accustomed to, it is not atypical for those with fan bases such as Mr. Bell.

As Detective Atanacio and I previously discussed, based upon the statement by Ms. Richards alone, [CHILD AB/NEG INFO] credibility must be called into serious question. She is a first-hand witness who is clear that [CHILD AB/NEG] is not being forthright if she continues to maintain that she was in Mr. Bell's hotel room alone, let alone engaging in sexual acts with him in the room. That falsity must, therefore, make any reasonable person question other claims. We know that Ms. Richards, has no vested interest in the matter, has known [CHILD AB/NEG] since birth, and was clear that she did not witness anything out of the ordinary at the Odeon. In fact, all she did recall was that Mr. Bell was very friendly and fan oriented. [CHILD AB/NEG] on the other hand, was upset because Mr. Bell was not affording her treatment different than any other fan.

As previously stated herein, we will continue to pursue relevant leads that I will forward to you both. Again, I ask for your patience as our expediency is limited due to the current pandemic though. Our efforts will continue until I hear from you that further investigation is no longer necessary. Should we be unable to identify any further information germane to this matter, I am hopeful that you recognize that the claims, as alleged, are now speculative and face legitimate counter-information. As experienced professionals within the criminal justice system, we all know that some matters are limited to mere possibility or even probability. I firmly believe that to be the case here. We also all know the damage that is inflicted upon an accused's personal and professional life if faced with wrongful charges. It is in that light that I ask to continue our dialogue should you have any questions or concerns after reading this correspondence and reviewing the attached evidence. I believe that all communications between Mr. Bell and [CHILD AB/NEG INFO] can now easily be explained within the developed context of the situation. I am prepared to address this, and other relevant, investigative aspects upon your request.

Again, thank you for your willingness to work with us to potentially prevent unnecessary and unjust litigation. From a broader and more lofty perspective, it is this sort of professional collaboration that minimizes uncertainty in the criminal process should a case be prosecuted or passed. I will wait to hear from you. If there are any specific points that you would like clarified, please let me know and I will take all necessary steps to provide you with a timely and complete response.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian N. Friedman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ian N. Friedman
Attorney for Drake Bell

Redaction Log

Total Number of Redactions in Document: 11

Redaction Reasons by Page

Page	Reason	Description	Occurrences
1	CHILD AB/NEG INFO	Identifying information of the child abuse/neglect victim(s) and the reporter(s) of the abuse/neglect; and the child abuse/neglect initial abuse report; have been redacted pursuant to O.R.C. 2151.421(I)(1) and (2); and Beacon Journal v. Akron, 104 Ohio St. 3d 399, 2004-Ohio-6557.	2
2	CHILD AB/NEG INFO	Identifying information of the child abuse/neglect victim(s) and the reporter(s) of the abuse/neglect; and the child abuse/neglect initial abuse report; have been redacted pursuant to O.R.C. 2151.421(I)(1) and (2); and Beacon Journal v. Akron, 104 Ohio St. 3d 399, 2004-Ohio-6557.	9

Redaction Log

Redaction Reasons by Exemption

Reason	Description	Pages (Count)
CHILD AB/NEG INFO	Identifying information of the child abuse/neglect victim(s) and the reporter(s) of the abuse/neglect; and the child abuse/neglect initial abuse report; have been redacted pursuant to O.R.C. 2151.421(I)(1) and (2); and Beacon Journal v. Akron, 104 Ohio St. 3d 399, 2004-Ohio-6557.	1(2) 2(9)